

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/601,981

Examiner

Laura B. Rosenberg

Applicant(s)

FISCHER ET AL.

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 29 March 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 6-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed 29 March 2005, in which claims 1, 6, 9, and 17 were amended, claim 5 was canceled, and claim 22 was added.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4 and 6-22 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regards to claim 1, the allowable subject matter is the tether, when tensioned, moving the vent member from the open condition to the closed condition, and the latching means having a latched condition for maintaining the vent member in the closed condition and an unlatched condition for preventing the vent member from remaining in the closed condition, in combination with other features of the claim.

With regards to claim 22, the allowable subject matter is the tether, when tensioned, moving the vent member from the open condition to the closed condition, and the latching means having a latched condition for maintaining the vent member in the closed condition, in combination with other features of the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In one embodiment, Pinsenschaum et al. disclose a vehicle occupant protection apparatus comprising an inflatable protection device, a vent opening, a vent member movable between an open condition and a closed condition, a tether, when tensioned, moving the vent member from the open to the closed condition, a latching means having a latched condition for maintaining the vent member in the open condition and an unlatched condition for preventing the vent member from remaining in the open condition, and a control means operative to actuate the latching means to the latched and unlatched conditions based on several sensed occupant conditions. In another embodiment, Pinsenschaum et al. disclose a vehicle occupant protection apparatus comprising an inflatable protection device, a vent opening, a vent member movable between a closed condition and an open condition, a tether, when tensioned, moving the vent member from the closed to the open condition, a latching means having a latched condition for maintaining the vent member in the closed condition and an unlatched condition for preventing the vent member from remaining in the closed condition, and a control means operative to actuate the latching means to the latched and unlatched conditions based on several sensed occupant conditions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura B. Rosenberg whose telephone number is (571) 272-6674. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:30pm.


Art Unit: 3616

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Laura B Rosenberg
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3616

LBR


PAUL N. DICKSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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